

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
memorandum

DATE: June 06, 1992
ATTENTION: Regional Archeologist, Mid-Atlantic Regi
SUBJECT: Trip report to Colonial National Historical Park
TO: Regional Director thru: ARD, CRM

On March 28 and 29 Archeologist Cooper and I tested the proposed location of the new septic field adjacent to the Civil War cemetery caretaker's house near the French Grand Battery at Yorktown Battlefield. The area of proposed impact, measuring 100 by 50 feet, was tested at 25 foot intervals in a grid pattern for a total of nine shovel tests (Fig 1).

The testing program revealed three distinct archeological strata (Fig 2). The initial soil horizon consisted of dark brown organic topsoil, extending from the surface to 0.5 feet below the surface. This horizon contained oyster shell and modern soda bottle fragments. The second horizon consisted of yellow brown sandy loam, lying between 0.5 and 1.5 feet below surface. This horizon contained several fragments of dark green vessel glass and small brick fragments. This stratum, which dates roughly to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, could be defined across the entire area of impact. However, this zone did not appear to possess any archeological features, or sufficient quantities of artifacts to contribute to an increased knowledge of the battle or other events. In addition, most of the artifacts recovered from this zone lay along the margin of the impact area. The third identified soil horizon consisted of yellow grey sand, lying below 1.5 feet below surface. It contained no artifacts.

I recommend approval for the project, provided archeological monitor is present during construction.

For David G. Orr

cc:
Supt. COLO
Diann Jacox

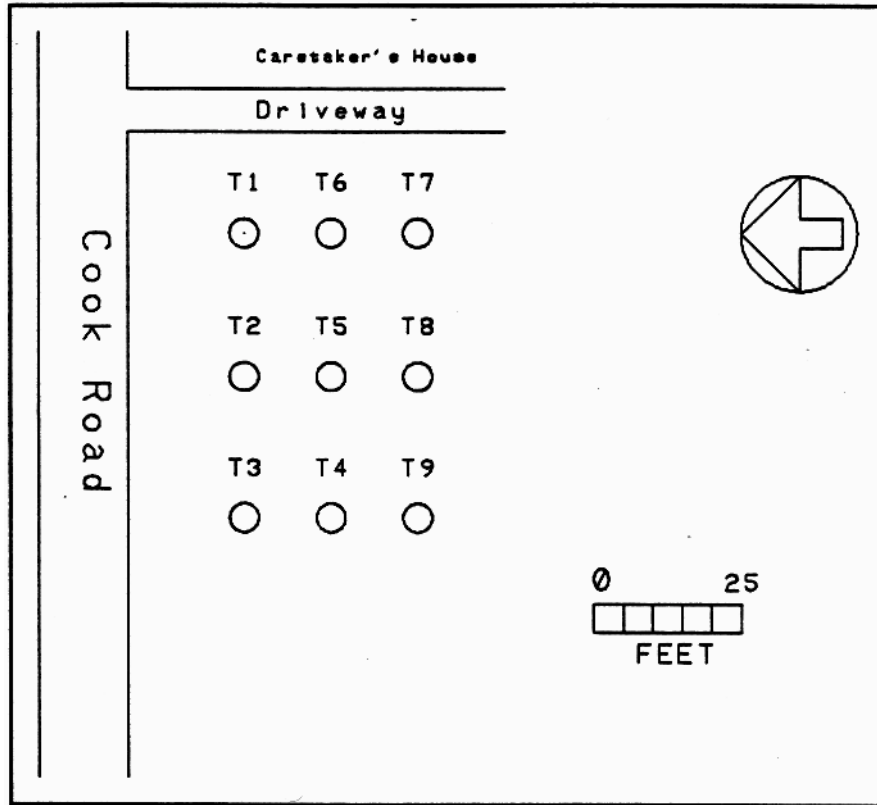


Figure 1: Location of shovel tests.

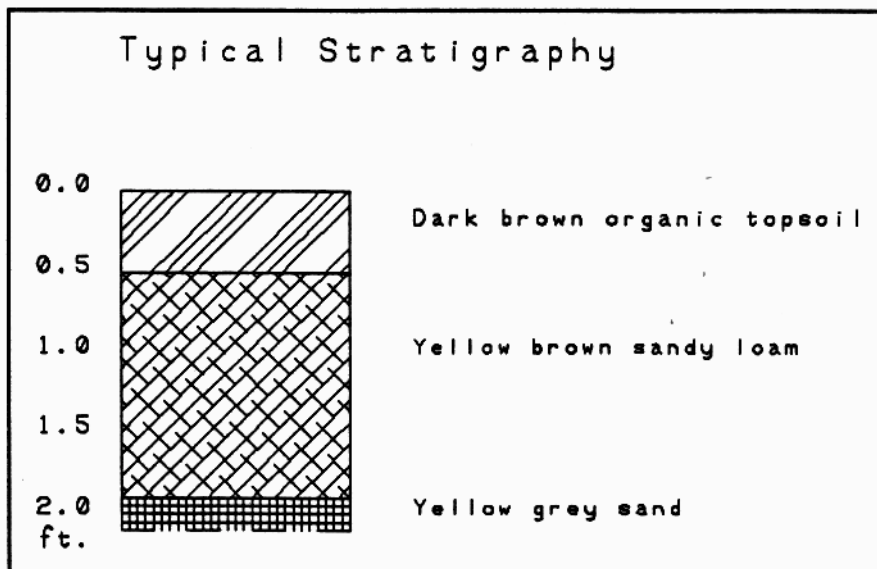


Figure 2: Typical stratigraphy.